

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

TITLE: National Internet-based On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Information Exchange

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP NUMBER: EPA-OAR-OTAQ-11-10

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA NO): 66.034

DATES:

The closing date for submission of proposals is **December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**. All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by the closing date and time in order to be considered for funding. Electronic submissions must be submitted to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) by **December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EST** in order to be considered for funding. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

To allow for efficient management of the competitive process, EPA requests submittal of an informal notice of "Intent to Apply" by **October 28, 2011** to klavon.patty@epa.gov. Submission of "Intent to Apply" is optional; it is a process management tool that will allow EPA to better anticipate the total staff time required for efficient review, evaluation, and selection of submitted proposals.

SUMMARY:

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals from eligible entities to maintain, update and improve an Internet-based information clearinghouse to facilitate the accurate and timely exchange of technical information related to vehicle on-board diagnostics (OBD) between state inspection/maintenance programs, the automotive industry, and the general public.

This project will also serve automotive technicians by providing current information about OBD technology, OBD training opportunities, OBD diagnostic tool vendors, and public outreach materials.

OBD stands for "on-board diagnostics," a computer-based system built into all model year (MY) 1996 and newer light-duty cars and trucks. OBD monitors the performance of some of the engines' major components, including individual emission controls. The system provides owners with an early warning of malfunctions by way of a dashboard "Check Engine" light (also known as a Malfunction Indicator Light or MIL, for short). By giving vehicle owners this early

warning, OBD protects not only the environment but also consumers, identifying minor problems before they become major repair bills. More information about OBD may be found at www.epa.gov/obd

The existing OBD Information Exchange was developed and maintained with EPA funding and can be found at www.obdclearinghouse.com.

FUNDING/AWARDS:

The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity shall not exceed \$500,000. EPA anticipates award of one (1) cooperative agreement resulting from this announcement, subject to availability of funds and the quality of applications received.

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Section I – Funding Opportunity Description**A. Background**

The National On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Information Exchange (hereafter called “OBD Clearinghouse”) provides an effective, accurate, and timely Internet-based OBD technology information exchange between inspection and maintenance (I/M) officials, automotive industry representatives, automotive technologists and the general public.

Vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs help improve air quality by identifying high-emitting vehicles in need of repair (through visual inspection, emissions testing, and/or the downloading of fault codes from a vehicle’s onboard computer) and causing them to be fixed as a prerequisite to vehicle registration within a given non-attainment area. The 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act made I/M mandatory for several areas across the country, based upon various criteria, such as air quality classification, population, and/or geographic location. More information about I/M may be found at www.epa.gov/otaq/im.htm.

The OBD Clearinghouse is Web-based and offers an enhanced repository of OBD information and an interactive forum where questions may be asked and answered and where interactive dialogue on issues can take place. This communication reduces barriers that have historically existed between I/M officials and the automotive industry.

The OBD Clearinghouse includes information on all state operations to ensure the highest possible accuracy of the states I/M programs and program summaries. This information, which was previously unavailable in a single location, is now available online for easy access and reference by all members.

Through the use of the OBD Clearinghouse, I/M regulators, automotive industry representatives, state programs, commercial and automotive technicians, and interested members of the general public will have access to accurate OBD information in an effective and timely manner.

The existing OBD Clearinghouse was developed and maintained with EPA funding and can be found at www.obdclearinghouse.com.

B. Scope of Work

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible entities to maintain, update and improve the Internet-based OBD Clearinghouse. The purpose of the OBD Clearinghouse is to facilitate the accurate and timely availability or exchange of technical information related to OBD among state Inspection/Maintenance programs, the automotive industry, and the general public.

The OBD Clearinghouse will also serve automotive technicians by providing current information about OBD technology, training opportunities, diagnostic tool vendors, and public outreach materials. It will also serve as a comprehensive resource which encompasses national, state, and repair industry perspectives.

Applicants must include in their proposal the following features, or equivalent features that achieve the same results:

- Current information about OBD technology including manufacturer technical service bulletins (TSBs) and I/M advisory bulletins;
- Current database for OBD Diagnostic Link Connector (DLC) access and locations, searchable by vehicle make, model and year;
- Vehicle Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Service Information links;
- OBD Training opportunities (e.g., instructing automotive repair technicians on OBD and how to use scan tools and other OBD equipment to diagnose and repair vehicles; instructing on I/M program requirements);
- OBD diagnostic tool vendors;
- Public outreach information and materials;

- An up-to-date non-database website element to provide an indexed search functionality to search non-database documents, materials, and resources; and
- The most up-to-date knowledge on OBD technology and repair make/model and testing strategies.

An applicant may also propose alternative methods or features, but must explain those methods and/or features and how they will be effective. The recipient of this award must also provide a communication plan for maintaining regular contact with interested stakeholders including state officials, automobile manufacturers, automobile associations and as many other national, regional, and private automotive technology repair associations as possible. Such regular contact would include, among other things, identifying technical issues as they arise in implementation and resolving such issues as well as disseminating the solution and/or results in a timely fashion through the OBD Information Exchange.

Applicants may provide a plan for improving the current OBD Clearinghouse which can be found at www.obdclearinghouse.com.

If necessary, EPA will provide the successful applicant with access to all data on the existing [OBD Clearinghouse](http://www.obdclearinghouse.com) that was developed and maintained with EPA funding.

C. EPA Strategic Plan Linkage and Anticipated Outcomes, Outputs & Performance Measures

Pursuant to Section 6a of EPA Order 5700.7, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA must link proposed assistance agreements to the Agency's Strategic Plan. EPA also requires that grant applicants and recipients adequately describe environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements (see EPA order 5700.7, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements, <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf>).

- 1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan:** All proposals must support progress towards EPA Strategic Plan Goal 1 'Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Air Quality', Objective 1.2 'Improve Air Quality' of EPA's 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, which states that EPA will achieve and maintain health-based air pollution standards and reduce risk from toxic air pollutants and indoor air contaminants:

- Strategic Measure: Reduce Criteria Pollutants and Regional Haze
- Strategic Measure: Reduce Air Toxics

Specifically, this proposed project will support efforts to reduce air toxics emissions and criteria pollutants from mobile sources by developing and refining tools, training, handbooks and information to facilitate the use of OBD in operating inspection and maintenance programs.

Please visit [EPA's FY 2011-2015 Strategic Plan](#) for more information.

2. **Outputs:** The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.

Expected outputs from the project funded under this solicitation may include but are not limited to the following: Maintenance of the National Internet-based On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Clearinghouse to assist repair technicians, state agencies, vehicle owners, and vehicle and engine manufacturers in monitoring and repairing mobile source engine components responsible for controlling automobile emissions.

Progress reports and a final report will also be a required output, as specified in Section VI.D of this announcement, “Reporting Requirement.”

3. **Outcomes:** The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

The project to be funded under this announcement is expected to produce at least one, and preferably all, of the following environmental outcomes: Improvement in outdoor air quality and advancement in knowledge of OBD II systems that can enhance emission performance in vehicles, provide cleaner air to consumers and result in fewer problems with OBD-based operations of inspection and maintenance programs.

4. **Performance Measures:** The applicant should also develop performance measures it expects to achieve through proposed activities and describe them in their proposal. These performance

measures will help gather insights and will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful process and output and outcome strategies and will provide the basis for developing lessons to inform future recipients. It is expected that the description of performance measures will include:

- Use of the OBD Clearinghouse Member Forum as a mechanism for resolving issues in automotive OBD II technology;
- Ensuring that OBD Clearinghouse databases are maintained and kept current/accurate; Ensure the integrity of back-up systems, associated software and hardware that supports the OBD Clearinghouse

D. Supplementary Information

The statutory authority for this action is the Clean Air Act, Sections 103 (a)(1) and 103(b) which authorize the award of grants/cooperative agreements for research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, training, surveys and studies related to the causes, effect, extent, prevention and control of air pollution.

In facilitating the accurate and timely availability or exchange of technical information related to OBD among state I/M programs, the automotive industry, and the general public, the OBD Clearinghouse helps these organizations prevent and control air pollution as required by CAA 103(a)(1) and serves as a comprehensive resource for current information on OBD technology and training opportunities as required by CAA 103(b).

Section II – Award Information

A. Amount of funding available

The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$500,000 to be funded incrementally over a five year period depending upon the availability of Agency funds.

B. Partial Funding

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

C. How many agreements will EPA award in this competition?

EPA anticipates award of approximately one (1) cooperative agreement resulting from this announcement. Expected annual funding is estimated at \$100,000 per

year, subject to availability of funds, quality of the evaluated proposals and other applicable considerations.

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months from the date of the original selection.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards.

D. What is the project period for awards resulting from this solicitation?

The estimated project period for an award resulting from this solicitation shall not exceed five (5) years estimated to be from April 2012—April 2017. All projects must be completed within the negotiated project performance period.

E. Funding Type

The funding for the selected project will be in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements permit substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial Federal involvement for this project may be:

- Close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- Collaboration during the performance of the scope of work;
- In accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g), review of proposed procurements;
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient);
- Review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

Section III – Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Entities

In accordance with CFDA 66.034, proposals will be accepted from states, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories and other public or private non-profit institutions.

Non-profit organization, as defined by OMB Circular A-122, located at 2 CFR Part 230, means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other

organization which (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations. Note that OMB Circular A-122 specifically excludes the following types of organizations from the definition of “non-profit organization” because they are separately identified in the Circular: (i) colleges and universities; (ii) hospitals; (iii) state, local, and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; and (iv) those non-profit organizations which are excluded from coverage of this Circular in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Circular. While not considered to be a “non-profit organization(s)” as defined by OMB Circular A-122, colleges and universities, hospitals, state, local and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments are, nevertheless, eligible to submit proposals under OMB Circular A-122 and this RFP.

For-profit organizations are not eligible entities for this funding opportunity. Additionally, non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No matching funds are required under this competition. Although cost-sharing/matching is not required as a condition of eligibility under this competition, under Section V of this announcement EPA will evaluate proposals based on a leveraging criteria.

Leveraging is generally when an applicant proposes to provide its own additional funds/resources or those from third party sources to support or complement the project they are awarded under the competition which are above and beyond the EPA grant funds awarded. Any leveraged funds/resources, and their source, must be identified in the proposal (See Section IV of the announcement). Leveraged funds and resources may take various forms as noted below.

Voluntary cost share is a form of leveraging. Voluntary cost sharing is when an applicant voluntarily proposes to legally commit to provide costs or contributions to support the project when a cost share is not required. Applicants who propose to use a voluntary cost share **must** include the costs or contributions for the voluntary cost share in the project budget on the SF-424. If an applicant proposes a voluntary cost share, the following apply:

- A voluntary cost share is subject to the match provisions in the grant regulations (40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable).
- A voluntary cost share may only be met with eligible and allowable costs.
- The recipient may not use other sources of federal funds to meet a voluntary cost share unless the statute authorizing the other federal funding provides that the federal funds may be used to meet a cost share requirement on a

federal grant.

- The recipient is legally obligated to meet any proposed voluntary cost share that is included in the approved project budget. If the proposed voluntary cost share does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and/or take other appropriate action as authorized by 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31 as applicable.

Other leveraged funding/resources that are not identified as a voluntary cost share: This form of leveraging may be met by funding from another federal grant, from an applicant's own resources, or resources from other third party sources. This form of leveraging should not be included in the budget and the costs need not be eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement. While this form of leveraging should not be included in the budget, the grant workplan should include a statement indicating that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and the applicant's proposal. If applicants propose to provide this form of leveraging, EPA expects them to make the effort to secure the leveraged resources described in their proposals. If the proposed leveraging does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and/or take other appropriate action as authorized by 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31 as applicable.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

These are requirements that if not met by the time of proposal submission will result in elimination of the proposal from consideration for funding. Only proposals from eligible entities (see above) that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. a. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or they will be rejected. In addition, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the proposal and/or parts of the proposal, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed.

b. In addition, proposals must be received by the EPA or through www.grants.gov as specified in Section IV of this announcement on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their proposal reaches the designated person/office specified in Section IV of the announcement by the submission deadline.

- c. Proposals received after the submission deadline will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with www.grants.gov. Where Section IV requires proposal receipt by a specific person/office by the submission deadline, receipt by an agency mailroom is not sufficient. Applicants should confirm receipt of their proposal with Patty Klavon as soon as possible after the submission deadline – failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.
2. Proposals must support EPA Strategic Plan Goal 1, ‘Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Air Quality’. (See *Section I*)
3. Hard copy proposals will only be accepted via an **express delivery service**. EPA will not accept proposals submitted via e-mail, fax or standard 1st Class Mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service.
4. EPA will not accept proposals that include a fee-based membership structure as part of the OBD Clearinghouse. EPA does not envision a fee-based program for this project.
5. Proposals must address all the features listed in Section I. Part B. Scope of Work.
6. Applicants must also provide a communication plan for maintaining regular contact with interested stakeholders, as stated in Section I. Part B. Scope of Work.

Section IV – Proposal and Submission Information

A. How to obtain a proposal package

Applicants can download individual grant application forms from EPA’s Grants and Debarment Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>. To obtain a hard copy of the materials, please send an email or written request to the Agency contact listed in Section VII of this announcement.

B. Mode of Proposal Submission

Applicants have the following options to submit their proposals: 1) Hard copy by express delivery service to the specified EPA contact below, or 2) electronically through www.grants.gov as explained in Appendix A. Proposals will not be accepted via fax, email, or standard 1st class mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. All proposals must be prepared, and include the information, as described below in Section IV.C “Content of Proposal Submission” regardless of mode of transmission.

1. Hard Copy Submission

Please provide one original of the proposal package (including signed and complete SF 424 and SF 424A forms) – **no binders or spiral binding** – to:

Hard Copy via Express Delivery (FedEx, UPS, DHL, USPS, etc.)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Patty Klavon (TRPD)
2000 Traverwood Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
Phone: (734) 214-4476

Hard Copy Proposal Submission Deadline

All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Patty Klavon **by December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EST.**

2. Grants.gov Submission (see Appendix A, Grants.gov Submission Instructions)

Proposal Submission Deadline: Your organization's authorized official representative (AOR) must submit your complete proposal electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than **December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EST.**

C. Content of Proposal Submission

The proposal package ***must*** include all of the following materials:

- **SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance**
Complete the form (available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>). There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organization Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.
- **SF-424 A, Budget Information**
Complete the form (available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>). There are no attachments. The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A, the

amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

- **Narrative Proposal**

The narrative work plan (sections 1-3 below), cannot exceed a maximum of 20 single-spaced typewritten pages, including the Summary Page. Supporting materials, such as resumes and letters of support, can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 20 page limit.

1. **Summary Information Page** (recommended not to exceed one page)

- a) Project title
- b) Applicant information. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and email address
- c) Funding requested. Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA
- d) Total project cost. Specify total cost of the project. Identify funding from other sources, including cost share or in-kind resources
- e) Project period. Provide beginning and ending dates (for planning purposes, applicants should assume funds will be available in **April 2012**).
- f) DUNS number – See Section VI.C.

2. **Narrative Proposal work plan**

The narrative proposal work-plan must explicitly describe how the proposed project meets the guidelines established in Sections I-III of this announcement (including the threshold eligibility criteria in Section III.C), and must address each of the evaluation criteria disclosed in Section V.

a. **Project Summary/Approach:** The summary shall contain the following components:

- i. Detailed project summary, description of specific actions and methods to be undertaken and responsible institutions, including estimated time line for each task.
- ii. Description of the associated work products to be developed (i.e., Web-site).
- iii. Explanation of project benefits to the public, and specifically the potential audience(s) served.
- iv. Description of the roles of the applicant and partners, if any.
- v. Description of the applicant's organization and experience related to the proposed project.

- vi. Description of staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.
- vii. Budget and estimated funding amounts for each work component/task over the entire 5-yr project period.

***Selected applicant(s) will need to submit a copy of their current indirect cost rate that has been negotiated with a federal cognizant agency prior to award.**

b. Environmental Results – Outcomes, Outputs and Performance Measures

Identify the expected quantitative and qualitative outcomes and outputs of the project (**see Section I**), including what performance measurements or other means will be used to track and measure your progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs and how the results of the project will be evaluated.

c. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than five agreements, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

d. Voluntary cost share/match and other leveraged funds (See Section III.B also)

Demonstrate how you will leverage additional funds/resources beyond the grant funds awarded to support the proposed project activities and how these funds/resources will be used to contribute to the performance and success of the proposed project. This includes but is not limited to funds and other resources

leveraged from businesses, labor organizations, non-profit organizations, education and training providers, and/or Federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as appropriate. Describe the amount and type of leveraged resources to be provided, how you will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged resources will play to support the proposed project activities. Selected applicants are expected to abide by their proposed leveraging commitments during grant performance and the failure to do so may affect the legitimacy of the award.

3. Detailed Budget Narrative (See Appendix B, Budget Sample)

Clearly explain how EPA funds will be used. This section provides an opportunity for a narrative description of the budget found in the SF-424A. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs.

Management Fees:

When formulating budgets for proposals, applicants **must not** include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicants cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

4. **Attachments.** These are optional and are not included in the 20 page limit. Nor are these attachments considered during evaluation of an applicant's proposal.

- a. **Biographical Sketch.** Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for all principal investigators and any other key personnel.
- b. **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.**
- c. **Quality Assurance Narrative Statement.**
- d. **Support Letters-**These should indicate how the supporting organization will assist in the project.

D. Can funding be used for the applicant to make subawards, acquire contract services, or fund partnerships?

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or

consortium. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance, which includes using subawards or subgrants to fund partnerships, provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their proposal. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subawardee/subgrantee, contractor, or consultant in the proposal EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward/subgrant and/or competitive procurement requirements as appropriate. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133 , and the definitions of subaward at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or subgrant at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Applicants acquiring commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism.

E. How will an applicant's proposed subawardees/subgrantees and contractors be considered during the evaluation process described in Section V of the announcement?

Section V of the announcement describes the evaluation criteria and evaluation process that EPA will use to make selections under this announcement. During this evaluation, except for those criteria that relate to the applicant's own qualifications, past performance and reporting history, the review panel will consider, if appropriate and relevant, the qualifications, expertise and experience of:

(i) an applicant's named subawardees/subgrantees identified in the proposal if the applicant demonstrates in the proposal that if it receives an award that the subaward/subgrant will be properly awarded consistent with the applicable regulations in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31. For example, applicants must not use subawards/subgrants to obtain commercial services or products from for profit firms or individual consultants.

(ii) an applicant's named contractor(s), including consultants, identified in the proposal if the applicant demonstrates in its proposal that the contractor(s) was selected in compliance with the competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate. For example, an applicant must demonstrate that it selected the contractor(s) competitively or that a proper non-competitive sole-source award consistent with the regulations will be made to the contractor(s), that efforts were made to provide small and disadvantaged businesses with opportunities to compete, and that some form of cost or price analysis was conducted. EPA may not accept sole source justifications for contracts for services or products that are otherwise readily available in the commercial marketplace.

EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subawardees/subgrantees and/or named contractor(s) during the proposal evaluation process unless the applicant complies with these requirements.

F. Submission Dates and Times

The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions, regardless of mode of submission, is **December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m., EST**. All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by the Agency contact by December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m., EST; electronic submissions must be submitted to www.grants.gov by December 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EST. Proposals received or submitted electronically after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

G. Confidential Business Information.

EPA recommends that you not include confidential business information ("CBI") in your proposal/application. However, if CBI is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203. Applicants must clearly indicate which portion(s) of their proposal/application they are claiming as CBI. EPA will evaluate such claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

The Agency protects competitive proposals/applications from disclosure under applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act prior to the completion of the competitive selection process.

H. Pre-Application Assistance and Communications

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposal packages, provide informal comments on draft narrative proposals, or provide advice and/or guidance to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals. However, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

Section V – Application Review Information

Only eligible entities whose proposals meet the threshold criteria in Section III of this announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria set forth below. Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal package submittal. Each proposal will be rated under a points system, with a total of 100 points possible.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points per Criterion
<p>Programmatic Capability and Past Performance: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project. EPA will also take into account such factors as the applicant's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in the narrative proposal as described in Section IV.C of the announcement; (6 points) b. History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in the narrative proposal as described in Section IV.C of the announcement including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not; (12 points) c. Organizational experience and plan for timely and 	30

<p>successfully achieving the objectives of the project, (6 points); and,</p> <p>d. Staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project. (6 points).</p> <p>Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including Agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g. to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these sub-factors (i.e., for items a, b and c above: a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.</p>	
<p>Effectiveness of overall program design: EPA will evaluate proposals based on the extent and quality to which the proposals' program design and design methodology addresses each of the factors listed in Section I. Part B. Scope of work.</p>	15
<p>Significance: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based upon:</p> <p>(a) The extent to which the proposed project will support or benefit the public in general, and the automotive repair industry in particular; (5 points)</p> <p>(b) The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the anticipated public benefits to be derived from the project in comparison to the total project cost. (5 points)</p>	10
<p>Innovation: EPA will take into account factors including applicants' inclusion of concepts, approaches, methods or combinations of expertise related to their proposals and evaluate them on their level of innovation.</p>	10
<p>Budget: Under this criterion, EPA will evaluate the proposed project budget to determine whether:</p> <p>I. costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes, (8 points)</p> <p>II. the proposed budget provides a detailed breakout of the approximate funding used for each major activity. (7 points)</p>	15

<p>An applicant's budget and budget narrative must account for both federal funds and any non-federal funds (e.g., any voluntary cost share/match if applicable). Applicants must precisely describe in their budget narrative how they will account for any voluntary cost share/match and what role EPA funding will play in the overall project.</p>	
<p>Cost leveraging: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate that they will leverage additional funds/resources, beyond the grant funds awarded, to support the proposed project activities and how these funds/resources will be used to contribute to the performance and success of the proposed project. This includes but is not limited to funds and other resources leveraged from businesses, labor organizations, non-profit organizations, education and training providers, and/or federal, state, tribal and local governments, as appropriate. Applicants will also be evaluated based on the amount and type of leveraged resources to be provided, how they will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged funds/resources will play to support the proposed project activities.</p>	10
<p>Environmental Results—Outcomes, Outputs and Performance Measures: Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the effectiveness of the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving the expected project outputs and outcomes, including those identified in Section I of this announcement. In addition, the Agency will evaluate the performance measures proposed by the applicant and how they will be used to help track and measure the Applicants progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes.</p>	10

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals will first be evaluated against the threshold factors listed in Section III. Only those proposals which meet all of the threshold factors will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria listed above by an EPA evaluation team. Each proposal will be given a numerical score and will be rank-ordered according to the numerical score. Preliminary funding recommendations will be provided to the Approving Official based on this ranking.

C. Other Factors

Final funding decisions will be made by the Approving Official based on the rankings and preliminary recommendations of the EPA evaluation team. In making the final funding decisions, the Approving Official may also consider programmatic priorities and geographic diversity of funds.

Once final decisions have been made, a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA Award Official.

Section VI – Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Following evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status.

Proposal Notifications

- EPA anticipates notification to the successful applicant will be made via telephone, email or postal mail. The notification will advise the applicant that its proposed project has been successfully evaluated and recommended for award. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the Standard Form (SF) 424, Proposal for Federal Assistance.

This notification, which advises that the applicant's proposal has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The award notice signed by the EPA grants officer is the authorizing document and will be provided through postal mail. At a minimum, this process can take up to 90 calendar days from the date of selection.

- EPA anticipates notification to unsuccessful applicant(s) will be made via email or postal mail. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the Standard Form (SF) 424, Proposal for Federal Assistance.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at:
http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm.
2. Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs may be applicable to awards resulting from the announcement. The applicant selected for funding may be required to provide a copy of their proposal to their State Point of Contact (SPOC) for review, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. This review is not required with the

Initial Proposal and not all states require such a review. A listing of State Point of Contacts (SPOC) may be viewed at:
www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html

C. Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Requirements

Unless exempt from these requirements under OMB guidance at [2 CFR Part 25](#) (e.g., individuals), applicants must:

1. Be registered in the CCR prior to submitting an application or proposal under this announcement. CCR information can be found at <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/>
2. Maintain an active CCR registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or proposal under consideration by an agency, and
3. Provide its DUNS number in each application or proposal it submits to the agency. Applicants can receive a DUNS number, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at: <http://www.dnb.com>.

If an applicant fails to comply with these requirements, it will, should it be selected for award, affect its ability to receive the award.

D. Reporting Requirement

Quarterly progress reports and a detailed final report will be required. Quarterly reports summarizing technical progress, planned activities for next quarter and summary of expenditures are required. Recipient will submit quarterly Progress reports in writing to the EPA Project Officer within 30 calendar days after each reporting period. The report shall include any changes of key personnel concerned with the project as well as work status, work progress, difficulties encountered, and a discussion of expenditures along with a comparison of the percentage of the project completed to the project schedule and an explanation of any significant discrepancies.

The final report shall be in writing and completed within 90 calendar days of the completion of the period of performance. The final report should include: summary of the project or activity, advances achieved, and costs of the project or activity. In addition, the final technical report should discuss the problems, successes, and lessons learned from the project or activity that could help overcome structural, organizational or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere.

While the Agency will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, EPA expects to closely monitor the successful applicants' performance, collaborate during the performance of the scope of work, approve the substantive terms of proposed

contracts, approve the qualifications of key personnel, review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement.

EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the recipient and the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.

E. Exchange Network

EPA, states, territories, and tribes are working together to develop the National Environmental Information Exchange Network, a secure, Internet- and standards-based way to support electronic data reporting, sharing, and integration of both regulatory and non-regulatory environmental data. States, tribes and territories exchanging data with each other or with EPA, should make the Exchange Network and the Agency's connection to it, the Central Data Exchange (CDX), the standard way they exchange data and should phase out any legacy methods they have been using. More information on the Exchange Network is available at www.exchangenetwork.net.

F. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/resolution.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting:

Patty Klavon
U.S. EPA, TRPD
2000 Traverwood Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Klavon.patty@epa.gov
(734) 214-4476

G. Non-Profit Administrative Capability Review

Non-profit applicants recommended for funding under this solicitation will be subject to pre-award administration capability reviews consistent with sections 8.b, 8.c and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8 – Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards (http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf). In addition, non-profit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office the Administrative Capabilities Form, with supporting documents, contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

H. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

Applicants must ensure that they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the sub-award and executive total compensation reporting requirements established under OMB guidance at [2 CFR Part 170](#), unless they

qualify for an exception from the requirements, should they be selected for funding.

I. Use of Grant Funds

An applicant that receives an award under this announcement is expected to manage assistance agreement funds efficiently and effectively and make sufficient progress towards completing the project activities described in the work-plan in a timely manner. The assistance agreement will include terms/conditions implementing this requirement.

Section VII – Agency Contacts

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Klavon,
Office of Transportation and Air Quality
2000 Traverwood Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Fax (734) 214-4052
Email address: klavon.patty@epa.gov

All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via postal mail, fax, or email to the contact person listed above.

Questions and answers will be posted until the closing date of this announcement at the OAR Grants/Funding webpage (http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html).

Section VIII – Other Information (Appendices)

Appendix A. Grants.gov Submission Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign grant proposals for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the proposal/application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package” to

download the compatible Adobe viewer and obtain the application package. To apply through grants.gov you must use Adobe Reader applications and download the compatible Adobe Reader version (Adobe Reader applications are available to download for free on the Grants.gov website. For more information on Adobe Reader, please visit the "Help" section on grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or http://www.grants.gov/aboutgrants/program_status.jsp)

Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the **Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OAR-OTAQ-11-10**, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.034), in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the proposal package by clicking on the Application button at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the "Find Grant Opportunities" button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to find EPA opportunities).

Proposal Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete proposal package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://grants.gov>) no later than **December 12, 2011, 4:00pm EST**.

Please submit all the proposal materials described below.

Proposal Materials

The following forms and documents are required to be submitted under this announcement:

- I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- II. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- III. Narrative Proposal-prepared as described in Section IV.C of the RFP
- IV. Other Attachments Form for other optional documents-See Section IV.C of the RFP
 - a. **Biographical Sketch.** Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for all principal investigators and other key personnel
 - b. **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**
 - c. **Quality Assurance Narrative Statement**
 - d. **Support Letters-** These should indicate how the supporting organization will assist in the project.

The proposal package *must* include all of the following materials:

I. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424.

Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

II. Standard Form SF 424A – Budget Information:

Complete the form. There are no attachments. The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

III. Narrative Proposal

Prepared as described in Section IV.C of the announcement. The document should be readable in PDF format and consolidated into a single file.

IV. Other Attachments Form-other optional documents (See above)

Application Preparation and Submission Instructions

Documents I through III listed under Proposal Materials above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For documents I through III, click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For document III, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your narrative proposal as described in Section IV.C of the announcement and save the document to your computer as a PDF file. When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename”; the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there are other attachments that you would like to

submit to accompany your proposal (optional documents described above), you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before or use the Other Attachments Form. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the web page. We suggest that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY 12 – National Internet-based On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Information Exchange – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY 12 – National Internet-based On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Information Exchange – Back-up Submission”. If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY 12 – National Internet-based On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Information Exchange – 2nd Submission”.

Once your proposal package has been completed and saved, send to your AOR for submission to the EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g. FY12), and the grant category (e.g. National Internet-based On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Information Exchange). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should re-boot his/her computer before trying to submit the proposal package again. (It may be necessary to turn off the computer – not just restart it – before attempting to submit the package again). If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>.

Proposal packages submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically.

Appendix B. Budget Sample

Budget Detail

This section of the work plan is a detailed description of the budget found in the SF-424A, and must include a detailed discussion of how EPA funds will be used. Applicants must **itemize** costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs.

If the project budget includes any cost-share, the Budget Detail portion of the narrative proposal must include a detailed description of how the applicant will obtain the cost-share and how the cost-share funding will be used. If EPA accepts an offer for a voluntary cost-share, applicants must meet their sharing commitment as a legal condition of receiving EPA funding. If the proposed cost-share is to be provided by a third-party, a letter of commitment is required. Any form of cost-share included in the Budget Detail must also be include on the SF 424 and SF 424A. Please see Section III.B if this RFP for more detailed information on cost-share.

Applicants should use the following instructions, budget object class descriptions, and example table to complete the Budget Detail section of the work plan.

- **Personnel - List all staff positions by title. Give annual salary, percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period.** This category includes only direct costs for the salaries of those individuals who will perform work directly for the project (generally, paid employees of the applicant organization). If the applicant organization is including staff time (in-kind services) as a cost share, this should be included as Personnel costs. Personnel costs do not include: (1) costs for services of consultants, contractors, consortia members, or other partner organizations, which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, which are included in the "Other" category; or (3) effort that is nor directly in support of the proposed project, which may be covered by the organization's negotiated indirect cost rate. The budget detail must identify the personnel category type by Full Time Equivalent (FTE), including percentage of FTE for part-time employees, number of personnel proposed for each category, and the estimated funding amounts.
- **Fringe Benefits - Identify the percentage used, the basis for its computation, and the types of benefits included.** Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits include, but are not limited to the cost of leave, employee insurance, pensions and unemployment benefit plans.

- **Travel - Specify the mileage, per diem, estimated number of trips in-State and out-of-State, number of travelers, and other costs for each type of travel.** Travel may be integral to the purpose of the proposed project (e.g. inspections) or related to proposed project activities (e.g. attendance at meetings). Travel costs do not include: (1) costs for travel of consultants, contractors, consortia members, or other partner organizations, which are included in the “Contractual” category; (2) travel costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, which are included in the “Other” category.
- **Equipment - Identify each item to be purchased which has an estimated acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year.** Equipment also includes accessories necessary to make the equipment operational. Equipment does not include: (1) equipment planned to be leased/rented, including lease/purchase agreement; or (2) equipment service or maintenance contracts. These types of proposed costs should be included in the “Other” category. Items with a unit cost of less than \$5,000 should be categorized as supplies, pursuant to 40 CFR 31.3 and 30.2. The budget detail must include an itemized listing of all equipment proposed under the project.
- **Supplies - “Supplies” means all tangible personal property other than “equipment”.** The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies). Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as printing service, photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the “Other” category.
- **Contractual - Identify each proposed contract and specify its purpose and estimated cost.** Contractual/consultant services are those services to be carried out by an individual or organization, other than the applicant, in the form of a procurement relationship. Leased or rented goods (equipment or supplies) should be included in the “Other” category. The applicant should list the proposed contract activities along with a brief description of the scope of work or services to be provided, proposed duration, and proposed procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known.
- **Other - List each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its cost.** This category should include only those types of direct costs that do not fit in any of the other budget categories. Examples of costs that may be in this category are: insurance, rental/lease of equipment or supplies, equipment service or maintenance contracts, printing or photocopying, rebates, and subaward costs. Subawards (e.g., subgrants) are a distinct type of cost under this category. The term “subaward” means an award of financial assistance (money or property) by any legal agreement made by the recipient to an eligible subrecipient. This term does not include procurement purchases, technical assistance in the form of services instead of money, or other assistance in the form of revenue

sharing, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance, or direct appropriations. Subcontracts are not subawards and belong in the contractual category. Applicants must provide the aggregate amount they propose to issue as subaward work and a description of the types of activities to be supported.

- **Indirect Charges - If indirect charges are budgeted, indicate the approved rate and base.** Indirect costs are those incurred by the grantee for a common or joint purpose that benefit more than one cost objective or project, and are not readily assignable to specific cost objectives or projects as a direct cost. In order for indirect costs to be allowable, the applicant must have a federal or state negotiated indirect cost rate (e.g., fixed, predetermined, final or provisional), or must have submitted a proposal to the cognizant Federal or State agency. Examples of Indirect Cost Rate calculations are shown below:
 - Personnel (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)
 - Personnel and Fringe (Indirect Rate x Personnel & Fringe = Indirect Costs)
 - Total Direct Costs (Indirect Rate x Total direct costs = Indirect Costs)
 - Direct Costs minus distorting or other factors such as contracts and equipment
(Indirect Rate x (total direct cost – distorting factors) = Indirect Costs)

Example Budget Table

	EPA Funding	**Cost-Share
Personnel		
(1) Project Manager @ \$40/hr x 10 hrs/week x 52 wks		\$20,800
(3) Project Staff @ \$25/hr x 40 hrs/week x 40 wks	\$120,000	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$120,000	\$20,800
Fringe Benefits		
20% of Salary and Wages	20%(120,000)	20%(20,800)
- Retirement, Health Benefits, FICA, SUI	\$24,000	\$4,160
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	\$24,000	\$4,160
Travel		
Travel for Project Manager and staff: 500 mi/mo @ \$0.55/mi x 12 mos.	\$3,300	
TOTAL TRAVEL	\$3,300	
Equipment		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	0	
Supplies		
Office and related supplies to support training	\$10,000	

TOTAL SUPPLIES	\$10,000	
Contractual		
Support Services Contract	\$20,000	
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	\$20,000	
Other		
TOTAL OTHER	\$0	
Indirect Charges		
Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate = 10% (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)	\$12,000	
TOTAL INDIRECT	\$12,000	
TOTAL FUNDING	(fed) \$189,300	(non-fed)\$24,960
TOTAL PROJECT COST (federal and non-federal)	\$214,260	

** Cost-Share funds, while not required under this RFP, must also be included on the SF-424A as detailed in Section III.B of this RFP.

Note on Management Fees: When formulating budgets for proposals, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicant's cognizant Federal audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges cannot be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the work plan.